

WINTER
1961
50 cents

ACCENT

on living

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IDEAS • NEWS • FACTS • INFORMATION • HUMOR



Editorial

The Secret of Success

Every successful man, as measured by millions of dollars, or power and influence, became successful because of just one thing—an idea. They got an idea and because they had a burning desire to make it work, because they made careful plans and worked constantly to get the job done—they became successful.

No one has a priority on ideas or the ability to take an idea and make it work. You can do it too. Thousands of people haven't discovered "their" idea yet. The sooner they do the sooner they will

have their chance to do the things they have always wanted and with all the money necessary.

ACCENT On Living magazine is loaded with ideas, specially suited for handicapped persons. Read each issue carefully—and over and over again. Your idea may be just around the corner. It's yours for the discovering.



The Staff of ACCENT On Living wishes everyone a Most Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

ACCENT ON LIVING CHARTER

ACCENT On Living is a national magazine dedicated to serving all handicapped people, their families and their friends, regardless of race, religion or creed. ACCENT is an authoritative clearing house for problems confronting handicapped people. ACCENT is edited and published with the firm belief that each person gains invaluable experience and knowledge as the result of a physical handicap. ACCENT believes in the complete dignity and respect of all persons. Furthermore, all profit from subscriptions and advertising will be used for furthering rehabilitation facilities and bringing facts, ideas and the benefits of rehabilitation to the readers of this magazine.

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—1960.

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Vol. 6 No. 3

MISS PHOEBE

NO. 44 IN A SERIES



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the first to eat in the Sky Room."**



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Living Lines...

"I really love the magazine and think it must be helpful to many others. Being human (I think) naturally I have opinions on the articles, sometimes not altogether "in favor". But that's good. Anything that makes you think is good. It gets you in there pitching . . . It behooves us instead to try and help others with their handicaps (forgetting our own) for we all have handicaps, some of the non-physical ones being worse than the physical. There is a terrific need for your magazine. It is true that many who need it do not know of its existence.—Pardon me for suggesting that in my opinion there is a great need for more personal articles, preferably from the viewpoints of the handicapped readers themselves dealing with the everyday and the emotional problems and **yes real-life** experiences (some of them are good, you know) of people who have overcome or are in the process of overcoming physical handicaps, not only in procuring and holding jobs, but in social life and home life as well."

Virginia Eady
St. Petersburg, Fla.

"On page 20 of your Fall 1961 issue, Ruth Bostian is pictured using some 8 oz. braces made in a VA Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. Would it be possible to obtain more details on this type of brace and how it could be obtained if you are not a veteran."

F. W. McBurney
Madison, Wisconsin

"We are interested in the Special lightweight Hand braces worn by former WAVE Ruth Bostian. Her picture appears on page 20 in your magazine 'ACCENT On Living,' Fall, 1961. Kindly send any literature or bulletin available regarding these braces."

A-Orthopedic Appliances, Inc.
Eugene Orosz, President
New York

"I'm still looking for a handicapped person that could take an executive lead in our business. We need someone that could make some personal appearances before civic groups here and would be able to talk to prospective customers about our work."

Elizabeth Cleghorn, President
Ri Co E., Inc.
Indiana

(Ed. Note: Anyone interested in applying can write to ACCENT. Letters will be forwarded to Mrs. Cleghorn.)

"In the Fall 1960 ACCENT On Living in the Idea Exchange column there was a letter written by Emily Rafferty of Louisville, Ky. in answer to Case #19 in reference to a panarthrodesis operation for stabilization of the knee. I should appreciate it very much if you can send her address to me so that I may contact her for further information as to results."

Dr. Cluck
New York

"Too expensive. As you well know, 50c can be a big sum to a handicapped person (or a physical therapist)."

R. V. J., R.P.T.
Connecticut

(Ed. Note: The lack of money must



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never stop ANY handicapped person from getting ACCENT. Write to me personally and I'll see to it that you get a subscription. As for this Physical Therapist, write to me and I'll help you get a better job so you can afford a \$2.00 subscription.)

"I'm trying to get a system where they can be able to prove the handicapped person is not a danger to our highways as they say. Anyone who drives with their heart is a countenance person with not only their own, but other peoples lives in mind."

Lenora Kerr Bishop
Lima, Ohio

"I enjoy ACCENT On Living very much and save all of my copies for the information. I would like to have information telling me how to be a representative for your wonderful little magazine."

A. Breazeale
San Angelo, Texas

"Wonderful magazine. Enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work."

Joe Marinick
Pontiac, Michigan

"In reference to Mrs. Roy Meeker, Talmadge, Kansas, seeking an air-inflated cushion, I'd say your searching days the over. Ken McRight Supplies, 3224 North Iroquois, Tulsa 6, Oklahoma, manufactures an excellent air cushion that prevents pressure sores. I can't speak too highly of their product, as it has given me many pleasant hours of sitting time. Their Model ML 17" x 4 1/2" is the best one which should not be inflated to its maximum capacity for long and carefree use."

David Arias
Salinas, California

"Your article about David Tawwater is very interesting to me. As one who is afflicted with multiple sclerosis and homebound, I think the preparation of

income tax returns is what I can do."

R. G. Pollard
Port Charlotte, Florida

"We are interested in placing our son, Marvin (cerebral palsied and confined to a wheel chair, 23 yrs. old) in a home. We are looking for a resident school or home where Marvin would be with other young handicapped adults, and would receive occupational therapy."

Name Withheld

(Ed. Note: Ideas from readers that could help this mother, or give advice, will be forwarded to her.)

"It is a great lift-er-upper—for those that can and will read it through, there is no reason that quite a number of handicapped people cannot live a normal life with all the new inventions now available, that you advertise in your nice little magazine."

Jack Rosenberg
Jeffersonville, Ind.

"I was interested in an article in your Fall issue about automobile insurance. I have been driving for over 30 years without a blemish on my record, but my company this year declined to renew. You state that many companies now have plans for merit rating insurance. I have never been able to find one of these companies. Could you give me the names of some?"

G. Bennett
St. Louis, Mo.

(Ed. Note: Some auto insurance companies may cancel all their insureds in a certain area when, as a whole, more claims are being paid out than premiums taken in. They do this to "clean up" what they call a bad underwriting experience. You may have happened to be just one in a large number—your handicap having nothing to do with it. Auto insurance companies may not necessarily call their plan a

merit rating system. In Missouri some call theirs the "safe driver award plan" where you "earn" lower rates after certain periods of time and if you don't have any accidents. You should talk to companies such as M.F.A., State Farm Insurance Companies, Nationwide, F. I. E. and Allstate there in Missouri.)

"In answer to Richard Gilmartin's letter in the last issue, if persons interested in quality wheelchair repairing will write to me, I will give you the name of the nearest reputable dealer. As to the availability of our equipment, this would vary a great deal because there are both small and large dealers, the larger naturally carry a larger stock. All dealers, however, can draw from stock in seven warehouses throughout the country. The farthest delivery point from any warehouse takes no more than three days time."

R. C. Birch
Sales Manager
Everest & Jennings, Inc.
1803 Pontius Avenue
Los Angeles 25, California

"In your Fall issue of ACCENT On Living, you published an article entitled 'Preferential Auto Parking for Handicapped Workers'. Since our Association, organized specifically to try to solve this complex problem in New York City, we would like to point out that some parts of your article were in error. The parking privileges afforded the handicapped driver in New York City are indeed helpful, but they do not solve the complete parking problem, and certainly do not grant as many privileges as stated in your article. The Special Vehicle Identification Cards mentioned do not allow the handicapped driver to 'park in a metered time-limited parking zone for an unlimited time'. To the contrary, metered and time-limited parking rules are enforced on all automobiles, whether op-

SPECIAL NOTICE . . .

TO ALL PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

YOU can get a life insurance policy on your life regardless of your physical disability.

Now you can get important and valuable protection for you and your loved ones—and there is no medical examination required. You simply write on the application what your disability is and when acquired—that's all. The application is short and easy to fill out. Don't wait—Tomorrow may be too late. As you grow older your cost increases. Write your name and address on a post card and mail today—your application form will be rushed to you by return mail.

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erated by handicapped or non-handicapped drivers. The Special Vehicle Identification Cards, issued by the Police Department, through the Traffic Division in New York City, merely informs the officer that the automobile is operated by a handicapped driver, and leniency in enforcing parking regulations are left to the discretion of the individual policeman. It in no way immunizes the handicapped driver from any laws governing parking regulations. Our congratulations to Dr. Rolf H. Ehrmann for his successful efforts in obtaining legislation of this nature in Chicago."

Richard Ruchamkin
Publicity Director
The Assoc. for Physically
Handicapped Drivers, Inc.
New York City

(Ed. Note: To park in a metered time-limited time zone for an unlimited time is the privilege allowed in St. Paul, Minnesota and not in New York

City, as implied in the article. Wisconsin and California have just recently passed statewide legislation providing special parking privileges for physically handicapped persons.)

"Lawrence Schneider, Jr., of Puerto Rico, faces the problem of getting out of a swimming pool without the aid of able-bodied people. This was also my problem, however we found the perfect solution in the Hoyer Patient Lifter. Dad had the socket cemented into the patio at the edge of the pool. The "mast" of the lifter fits into this socket and swivels in all directions. The lifter picks me up from my wheelchair with the aid of the hydraulic pump and lowers me on to the pool steps. From there I am on my own. The lifter is so easy and simple and safe that a child can operate it. Coming out of the pool is equally simple."

Lorraine Huber
Deerfield Beach, Fla.



Lurner Williams, probably the best-known sports reporter in South Georgia, covers games over a wide area. He also does many feature articles. "Interviewing Miss Georgia of 1960 is one of the many pleasures in being a newspaper reporter."

***Lurner Williams, journalist, says, "My
life is full—because I chose it that way!"***

POSITIVE THINKING

Can Create Miracles!

For centuries man had run a mile to see who could come *closest* to running the distance in four minutes. Then in 1956 Roger Bannister, of England, ran a mile in *less* than four minutes. Since then it has been done time and time again. Why? Someone proved it could be done. No longer is there a mental barrier to confront!

"Man is made but little lower than the angels, and God has crowned him with glory and honor. The Apostle Paul said, 'I can do *all* things—through Christ, which strengtheneth me'," so says 33 year old Lurner Williams who can bend neither hips nor knees because of the after effects of arthritis. Stricken with rheumatic fever on January 5, 1941, he was confined to bed. He was in the seventh grade and has not been able to return to school—except on a stretcher—since. Hospitalization for long periods followed as did other attacks. Surgery helped his hips a little so now he can sit up slightly. It is in this position he does his work, typing with speeds 70 to 75 words per minute.

At age 21, Lurner was dismissed from the hospital, but not before spending four months taking an intensified course in English, spelling and typing. An Elks auxiliary

donated a used typewriter and his career was started.

"I handled magazine subscriptions and sold Christmas cards, addressed postal cards for baby showers and anything else I could get. My home is in a village of 250 people in a farming community and the only other town is twelve miles away, with a population of just 2,500 people."

Lurner's winning smile and personality won him many new friends. The County Grand Jury appointed him Notary Public and ex-officio

The jacket Lurner wears was awarded him by the Jeff Davis High School teams after he stayed with both boys and girls through the state tournament, lending encouragement and inspiration. Both teams won state title in unprecedented fashion.



Justice of the Peace. "It was a slow take-off for a business, but people were cooperating and I knew I had to work and keep pushing. I made a little money that first year with all the business combined and I was encouraged greatly."

Not standing still, he began a correspondence course in accounting and then the next year began to help people in preparing their income tax returns. Barber shops can be an excellent advertising medium—three barber shops in the county seat passed the word around and he found some people driving from twelve miles away to obtain his services. "I gave each unreserved attention and time."

Lurner kept working. He completed his high school work at home and in June, 1950, at the age of 23, "I entered the first high school building in my life, being rolled in on a stretcher, where I received my high school diploma."

"I had been serving as correspon-

dent for the local paper for years, and branched out to the Savannah Morning News—a daily. I contacted the Atlanta Journal, which covers Dixie like the dew', but they wrote they could not use me as correspondent because I did not live in the county seat. I wrote again and they gave me the same reply. So I began sending in news items. They were unsolicited—and unused for twelve weeks—but on the 13th week, they used one of my items! Each month since then I have gotten a check from the Atlanta Journal."

"In November, 1956, I made a discovery, learning that a station wagon could be equipped as an ambulance. I bought a 1955 Ford station wagon and from then on I was a 'roving' reporter. But in fairness to, and appreciation of, my tax clients, I stay home day and night from January 15 through April 15, with the exception of about five or six nights—and tournament time. I



A three bedroom home, including a 12' by 20' office was built by Lurner for he and his mother who live all alone. The office is on the corner adjoining the carport and contains his hospital-type bed, filing cabinets, secretary's desk and chair. As Justice of the Peace, he also holds court in this same room. He is shown, left, with a friend, Rev. Roy Hayes, just before departing for a church where Lurner is to speak. One minister stated, "His messages inspire and lift more than those coming from a man with two strong legs".

built a home with an office in early 1958 on the highway. I travel more than 20,000 miles each year in my wagon—a 1959 Ford now.

"I have had an opportunity to give testimony in more than 65 churches in this part of the state. While I have spoken from many passages in the Bible, I have tried to impress one thing—man's potential is limitless. Positive thinking can create miracles! Whatever I have accomplished, little as it may be, came as the result of wanting to do it and believing I could do it. I discard negative thoughts and concentrate only on the positive. I belong to the Lions Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. I assume the same positions of responsibility in the club as the other members and want no favors. Some of the members can do things I cannot do, and I can do things some of them cannot, so things even up!

"I shall not conclude without a word about a dear, devoted 72-year-old mother who has been my nurse, cook, secretary and booster, all these years."

How does he do it? Lurner says, with deep humility, "All this has come to pass because of one simple thing: I made an effort because people helped me so much, and people helped me so much because I made an effort!"

PROBLEMS

He stopped griping when his boss sent him this memo:

"Be thankful for problems, for if we didn't have them you wouldn't be here and if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."

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Bloomington, Illinois

A physically handicapped person PROPERLY PLACED is NOT JOB HANDICAPPED.

SLAVE LABOR

by Raymond C. Cheever

Marge is a typist for an insurance company. She transcribes letters at a speed of 80 words per minute with no errors. She is paid \$1.00 an hour, while the girl next to her gets \$1.80 an hour doing the same thing. Marge had polio and comes to work in a wheelchair.

Walter does wiring and small electronic assembly work in a plant that hires only the physically handicapped. His work is top quality and he completes as many components, sometimes more, as a man doing this operation in another firm that hires able-bodied. Walter is paid \$1.00 an hour, while his counterpart earns an average of \$25 a day by being paid by the piece-rate system, where you get a fixed amount for each unit completed. Walter is a paraplegic and comes to work in a wheelchair.

Donna repairs and refinishes used furniture and other household items in a sheltered workshop. She was a well-paid secretary, earning \$350 a month, before she lost her leg in an automobile accident. Now she is paid 75c an hour.

These three people have something in common. Their employers are "doing them a favor" because of a physical handicap.

This is SLAVE LABOR, there can be no other word for it. They

Equal pay for equal work

*President's Committee
on Employment of the Physically Handicapped*

are being exploited. Human nature is peculiar—there ARE employers that will seek to lower their costs while lining their own pockets with more profit. And what a wonderful way to do it—while they boast of how much they are helping the “handicapped”.

Or are they exploiting the handicapped? There are cases similar to Marge, Walter and Donna where many well-meaning citizens are REALLY trying to help those with handicaps.

The purpose of this, and the following articles on this subject, is to bring facts to light so that YOU THE READER will be in a better and informed position to make decisions. You will be able to provide valuable information for all those dedicated individuals really interested in helping the handicapped get good jobs with decent pay. As a handicapped person yourself, you are in an excellent position of taking hold and by becoming active in local rehabilitation groups you can provide a valuable service to your-

self and the many causes of the handicapped.

As one writer said, “Why do the physically handicapped have to be ‘placed’? Why can’t they place themselves?”

A Key Issue

There is a key issue involved here and it is important. That is the PRODUCTIVITY of a worker. How does his work output and performance compare with the so-called average? The U. S. Dept. of Labor Regulations say, “The wage rates paid clients working at piece-rates shall not be less than the piece-rate paid non-handicapped employees in the same work in the vicinity in regular commercial industry maintained approved labor standards.”

In other words, a person should be paid for what they do. Equal pay for equal work. When a disabled person is truly being rehabilitated and trained to perform a useful job, he should be paid for the work he

***One truth must always be—all people
must earn a fair wage for what they do
... there will be no differential between
the able-bodied and the handicapped!***

does and at a "training level" wage—but if and when he reaches the standards of a job, then he should advance to "regular pay".

What Is Regular Pay?

Average standards (production by able-bodied workers) many times have not been established. Specific jobs can be compared to similar or like jobs in other places of employment in the community, or, if a handicapped person is doing a job that cannot be compared to any done by the able-bodied, then by time studies and work evaluation a standard can be determined. (an able-bodied worker can "sit in" and on the basis of experiment average job standards can be determined.)

What Is Piece-Rate?

A metal part is turned on a lathe and a worker is paid 20c for each one. In regular industry an average worker will turn out twelve of these parts each hour—earning \$2.40 an hour. Now if a C.P. is being trained to do this job and this C.P. can turn out three parts—then at 20c each he will earn 60c an hour. This is NOT slave labor because this C.P. is still being paid the industry rate of 20c for each part.

Problems

It is unfair labor practice for an employer to hire handicapped people, whose production is average, as CHEAP LABOR while they compete with regular industry and while management and stockholders

earn fat dividends. It IS a good thing for a well-organized and efficiently-managed sheltered workshop to continue doing the good job they are doing by truly training and thereby rehabilitating persons for future jobs in regular industry. True, some persons will never be able to meet industry standards, so in all probability will have to continue their work in these workshops. However, all sheltered workshops do not live up to this—in fact, some are no more than sweat shops.

Help Is Available

The National Association of Sheltered Workshops and Homebound Programs, Inc. (1025 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D. C.) has long advocated the establishment of an equitable ratio between production and wage rates. Their "standards" published June 1960 is a must for everyone concerned with this problem.

Yet—in a conversation with a professional rehabilitation counselor, he revealed that he never knew there was such an Association—and he is establishing a workshop in an Illinois city. In another visit with a man with a Master's Degree, teaching at one of the best schools of special education for handicapped children, he poo-pooed this Association with the remark, "There is a national association for about anything you want."

What's the result? It is handicapped people—they say thousands needs help—that are suffering and

will continue to suffer. While the professionals, with a lack of training or with petty jealousies, are all trying to get the credit—IT'S YOU—the readers of this magazine that will suffer. Don't get me wrong, there are many skilled professionals in rehabilitation and we have had the sincere privilege of meeting many of these people, but at the same time there are a great many more who could learn a thing or two.

It's Up To You

I'll say it again—handicapped people are in the number one position—you already have the most important qualification for this job—to make yourself known in local groups of rehabilitation counselors, doctors and civic-minded people. You can provide an educated and balanced outlook as to objectives. Take the lead, present your plans to veterans organizations, civic clubs, the Junior Chamber of Commerce. You will be surprised how many groups are looking for something, or a cause, to sponsor. Don't forget to talk to your local State Employment Agency and ask for someone to be appointed to work with you.

Specific ideas will be printed in a future article in this series, but start thinking now, get groups of your friends together and put your initial ideas down on paper.

The end result—a better world in which to live, with handicapped people considered as equals, doing equal jobs with equal pay.

In The Next Issue

THE LAW

**What It Says.
What Are Your Rights.
Can You Get A Hearing?**

The second in a series of informative and valuable articles concerning Slave Labor and the exploitation of handicapped persons in employment.

Handicapped Join Federal Payroll

The Veterans Administration hired 1,502 physically handicapped persons during Fiscal Year 1961, an increase of more than 20 percent over the 1,249 appointed during Fiscal Year 1960.

Even with normal turnover, this brings the total of handicapped persons on the VA employment rolls to more than 11,000 in the 170 hospitals, 67 regional offices and 91 out-patient clinics from coast to coast.

Although this will work out to approximately one physically handicapped person for every 14 full-time VA employees, experience has shown that when properly placed their job performance record compares favorably with that of their non-handicapped fellow-workers.

In the VA Department of Veterans Benefits, 9.7 percent of the personnel have some handicap; in the Department of Medicine and Surgery, 7.4 percent and the Department of Insurance 7.3 percent,

Preferential Parking For Handicapped Workers

Part Two—This is the second of two special articles with important information that can help you get this type of legislation passed where you live.

In a city of nearly four million, enough people became interested in special parking privileges for handicapped persons so that last July 25, the Chicago City Council passed special legislation which now permits any disabled person in Chicago to obtain special identification permits.

As stated before, credit for spearheading this campaign and getting people interested goes to Dr. Ralph H. Ehrmann, a paraplegic, who is also an industrial chemist and patent attorney.

In a telephone interview, we asked Dr. Ehrmann what specific procedure he would recommend to others to effectively bring these privileges to many more cities. The following are his recommendations.

Recommended Procedure

1. "Investigate on a village or city, county and state basis to determine where the authority is vested to grant, or make laws applicable to the granting of parking privileges. This varies. In New York State, the authority is almost uniformly in the Police Department. In most other states, the authority is with the legislators (City Coun-

cil, County Board, Village Board, and State).

2. "Contact as many people and organizations as possible who would be interested in this type of legislation and who would support it. These include parents of disabled children, veterans organizations, clubs of the handicapped, professional associations and members who are disabled, medical societies, civic and fraternal organizations. Through these people you ascertain who, of the interested parties, have connections to legislators, or people in authority. For example, a State Senator, a County Board Supervisor, or a City Alderman who has a disabled brother, sister or child would probably be more amiable toward this type of legislation and will give it a boost.

3. "Contact other cities and states where such legislation exists and request them to furnish you with copies of their enacted legislation, including the rules with which they are carried into force and effect. (the states of New York, Minnesota, California and Wisconsin are some that now have this type of legislation).

4. "Draw up your own draft, us-

ing these examples for information, to provide a specific legislative proposal for the people in your particular community who will have to introduce the law. You have to keep in mind the specific conditions that may apply to your area.

5. "Submit copies of this proposal to the organizations and persons, as in number 2 above, and ask for their support.

6. "Work closely with the Police Department, as they are in a position to help you with specific details and may be influential in supporting it.

7. "Contact all news media in your area (newspaper, radio and TV), sending copies of the proposed legislation, the names of organizations supporting it, names of influential people who have helped develop it, etc. Point out that one of the primary advantages of such legislation inures to the benefit of the taxpayer, in view of the fact that disabled people may become self-supporting by virtue of this legislation. It can enable a handicapped person to go to and from work and to have a job, instead of being a recipient of charity. They will be turned into self-supporting and tax paying citizens.

8. "Follow very closely the progress of the proposed legislation, being ready and offering your assistance at any time to help eliminate objections, if there are any, or to help provide additional information necessary that will help those with the authority in arriving at a speedy and favorable decision."

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Wheelchair engagement.

After competing for four years at the Wheelchair Olympics, Sol Welger, left, a Pan-American Airways accountant, and Chris Disanter, 22, of West Berlin, replaced rivalry with romance and made plans to wed in February, 1962. Both are polio victims. Sol Welger is one of over 500 physically handicapped persons employed by Pan-American Airways.

ACCENT On Pictures

Reverend Dana M. Pankey, D.D., Ph.D., has dedicated his life to ministering to shutins and physically handicapped who have been forgotten. Seriously handicapped himself with paralytic strokes, he said, "I believe this is one of the greatest missionary challenges on earth! The sick and shutins are often a neglected, overlooked and forgotten people. In some cases they are even unwanted." He went on to say, "We want no handout except that we put a hand-out to help less fortunate people on this earth."





Russell Heriford, a paraplegic veteran of W.W. II, is using his abilities to help others. He invented this Stand-Alone aid which enables him to get to a standing position from his wheelchair, wheel himself to his plane, enter and de-plane unaided. The plane is a Piper Tri-Pacer, equipped with a hand-operated rudder control.

Illinois Governor Kerner, (second from left) very much interested in the welfare of the physically handicapped, visits with (l. to r.) Bill Ingalls, past State D.A.V. Senior Vice-Commander; Louis Olivetti, Springfield Hall-Hagler D.A.V. chapter Commander; and Ed Oakes, State D.A.V. Commander. Picture was taken at the annual picnic where Univ. of Ill. physically handicapped students are entertained by the Springfield D.A.V.'s.



Marie Hoyer demonstrates one of the Lifts made by the company she heads up as its president. Theodore Robert Hoyer, paralyzed at age 16 in an auto accident, invented this hydraulic lift to get paralyzed persons in and out of chairs, beds, cars and bathtubs because of his own necessity. Before her husband died at 34 with a kidney ailment, "he made people aware that the physically handicapped had a right to a job, a right to play and a right to be out in the world." This business, which started in a garage, now has well over 23,000 patient lifters in use now; each means to Marie Hoyer that someone's life has been made easier.





\$4583.94 was the annual salary for Albert Putzer in 1960, an employer of the Hoyer Company, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Albert has one leg amputated at the hip.

N.A.H.P. National Officers elected recently are (l. to r.) Robert F. Conklin, Washington, D. C., President; Virginia H. Lowder, Washington, D. C., Vice-President; Edward Shellhammer, Johnstown, Pa., Vice-President.



The silver medal of the city of Paris, France was awarded to Dr. Eugene F. Murphy, Chief of the Res. and Dev. Div. of the V.A. Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service in NYC. He is shown with examples of new and old prostheses for below-knee and Syme amputations. The new patellar tendon-bearing below-knee prosthesis, with simple cuff above the knee, was developed by the U. of Calif. under a VA contract. It allows greater freedom and comfort than the older prostheses with metal side joints and laced thigh corset. The new prostheses, developed in Canada, and further improved in the VA Prosthetic Center, are less bulky, stronger, lighter and more sanitary than older leather prostheses with metal sidebars. Dr. Murphy is shown with his associate, W. M. Bernstock, discussing the harness for artificial arms for patients amputated at or above the elbow.



ACCENT On The News

A significant proportion of women do not want their husbands to retire because they feel that there will be more housework to do, that their daily routine will be disrupted, that they do not want their husbands home all day, and that they will have to live on a lower income. This, according to Wilma Donahue (PhD), chairman of the University of Michigan Division of Gerontology.

Deaf Driver Auto Insurance Program Cancelled. Reason was lack of interest of the deaf motorist in joining and supporting this program. The success of many programs of this type will depend on the interest and support of the handicapped themselves.

Ordinance Limiting Solicitation Declared Unconstitutional. The United States Court of Appeals recently ruled that an ordinance that limited solicitation for charitable causes to one organization "Community Chest" was unconstitutional. Another ordinance which banned any kind of campaign for a charitable cause without the prior consent and direction of the City Council, was declared repugnant to the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, because it did not provide any standards by which permission to solicit shall be either granted or withheld.

New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, in June 1961, directed that all present and future state-owned buildings be modified to provide easy access to persons with physical handicaps.

Auto hand control promoters indicted. The National Better Business Bureau recently issued a warning concerning General Aids, Inc., Hackensack, New Jersey, a concern engaged in a scheme to sell a hand control device to enable handicapped persons to drive cars. A report has now come through that the corporation and two of its officers, Arnold Lerman and Anthony Rittwager, have been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on charges by auto dealers. The defendants are charged with falsely representing to car dealers that they had orders from customers for cars equipped with the device. The dealers bought the mechanism for \$41 and installed it in the type of car requested, but there were no purchasers. The indictment named 50 dealers as victims, but the total number defrauded was 484, according to the postal investigators. In May, 1960, Lerman was convicted on charges of Grand Larceny in the offering of tinted plastic filters for TV receivers. He was released, awaiting sentencing on his conviction. In January, 1961, he was sentenced to one year, and is now awaiting commitment pending appeal. He had also been the subject of a three-count Criminal Information, charging violation of the false advertising statute of New York, as well as a three count felony indictment, charging forgery of a check. In addition, numerous civil actions have been brought against Lerman and a number of his business concerns. Lerman was formerly president of Arnold Devices, Inc., NYC, and—he uses a wheelchair as the result of a spine injury at birth.

Fascole Corp., in New York City, lost its "power behind the throne" when Jairus P. Coleman died recently. The company has been offered for sale, according to an unconfirmed report.

Architectural Barriers— A Blueprint for Action

As presented by Leon Chatelain, Jr., FAIA, past president, American Institute of Architects, at the annual convention of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, November 18, Denver, Colorado.

As an architect who has had many years of experience designing buildings used by the public—government buildings, churches, schools, libraries, places of recreation, commercial and industrial buildings and other places for people to live, work and play it would seem that I might have thought about problems of access to these buildings by physically handicapped persons. It never seemed to occur to any of us that there were people who couldn't use these buildings because of physical handicaps. I imagine every one of you in the audience has at one time or another stumbled or fallen over that booby trap step.

I was astonished to learn that nearly one person in six in our nation has a permanent physical handicap.

It appears that in all likelihood the situation will get worse before

it gets better. Two-way radios and efficient rescue squads bringing the finest medical care to the sites of disasters will save many lives and at the same time increase the number of individuals surviving with permanent physical disabilities. Advancements in medical science decrease mortality at birth and also increase longevity so that we have in our population an increasingly larger proportion of the aged and individuals with permanent physical disabilities.

Our machine age and the need for rapid transportation bring to our highway each year, a larger number of cars and trucks and more highly powered motor vehicles. Authorities anticipate that over 200,000 traumatic paraplegics yearly will be added to our list of handicapped. These are individuals with spinal cord injuries resulting in both motor and sensory paralysis. Just think! This adds up to over 2,000,000 traumatic paraplegics in the next ten years!

We are all happy that the free enterprise system under which we live gives us so much leisure time,

A national attack on architectural barriers to the handicapped has been launched—here is the long-awaited information that can bring many benefits to the disabled—with ideas on what you can do to help.

but frequently the use of the leisure leads to boating and swimming accidents which alone will create thousands of disabilities.

Many disabled people are rehabilitated and can be restored to the productive manpower of America at all levels of employment—from the skilled and semi-skilled trades to business and the professions. All can serve admirably.

Unfortunately, an unnecessarily large portion of our permanently physically handicapped have been institutionalized or are confined to their homes, protected and pampered by solicitous parents, relatives and friends, or hidden from view by ashamed families. Many of the disabled are afraid to venture forth because of the architectural barriers they encounter—barriers that have unwittingly been built into the very buildings that should be most accessible.

Although there are other problems, the one that is most often heard and the one that looms the largest is the inaccessibility of buildings. The finest programs of rehabilitation, education or recreation are unavailable to the disabled if they cannot have access to the very buildings they need to enter in order to use these services.

The correction of these problems is not within the realm of the professional rehabilitation worker but is rather the responsibility of the architect, engineer, designer, builder, manufacturer, and also legislators, municipal leaders, and community planners. The professional engaged in rehabilitation is eager

to give his encouragement, assistance and guidance for the correction of these evils.

Basically speaking, if we can correct these failings in building design we can make it possible to use the talents and resources of millions of physically handicapped individuals for the betterment of all mankind.

In an endeavor to solve this problem, consultations were held between the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Employment of the Physically Handicapped and executives of the American Standards Association, and it was decided to invite individuals who were vitally interested in, and ably qualified to assist in attacking the problems of architectural barriers, to meet with key personnel of the American Standards Association. As a result, a group of experts and consultants met in May, 1959, to discuss the formation of an American Standards Association Committee to study the problems of architectural barriers. This project, entitled "Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible and Usable to the Physically Handicapped," was known as A.S.A. Project A-117.

Several vital decisions were made at this meeting:

1. That the problems of architectural barriers as they affect the physically handicapped justified an all-out effort by every organization interested in this problem.
2. That the American Standards Association would approve the project as one that would re-

sult in acceptable American Standards.

3. That the co-sponsors would be the President's Committee on the Employment of the Physically Handicapped and the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults and that the principal financial support would be granted by the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults. The National Society approved a grant of \$20,000 to this project.

A Steering Committee of seven members was appointed, and a Sectional Committee, national in scope, representing about seventy-five interested professional and trade associations, societies and government agencies was selected. A comprehensive and detailed "Work Outline" was developed, and with this as a guide, each member of the Committee investigated independently specific areas which related to his basic interest and knowledge. We were most fortunate to have Professor T. J. Nugent, Supervisor of Student Rehabilitation of the University of Illinois accept the position of secretary to the committee. Through his untiring work, through his reservoir of testing facilities at the University of Illinois, using individuals with a wide range of physical handicaps, he was able to provide the Committee with the essential data necessary for it to make its many decisions. Ramps were constructed that were adjustable to differing pitch and length and combinations of both. Adjustable hand

rails were installed. Research men tested wheelchair-bound individuals having various types and degrees of handicap under widely varying conditions. Another area of basic research performed at the University of Illinois was the determination of the turning space of a wheelchair and the vertical and horizontal reach of the individuals using them. Each test was conducted by individuals representing various manifestations of disability, various ages and varied circumstances relating to age of onset of disability. The data from these tests are contained in a report of over 100 pages.

It was decided that the American Standards Committee could concern itself with every group of disability:

1. Non-ambulatory disabilities: those individuals who for all practical purposes are confined to wheelchairs regardless of cause or manifestation.
2. Semi-ambulatory disabilities: those individuals who walk with difficulty or insecurity, or requiring the use of prostheses, braces or crutches (including amputees, arthritics, the cerebral palsied, and those with pulmonary and cardiac disabilities.)
3. Sight disabilities: those individuals who are totally blind and those whose sight is impaired to the extent that traveling in public areas may be insecure and hazardous.
4. Hearing disabilities: those individuals who are deaf or have a hearing handicap to the ex-

tent that they might be insecure in major public areas or industrial situations because they are unable to communicate or hear warning signals.

5. Disabilities of incoordination: those individuals who have faulty coordination or palsy as a result of brain injury, spinal injury, or peripheral nerve injury.

6. Aging: those with significantly reduced mobility, flexibility, coordination, and perceptiveness, that are not included in other categories.

After a little over two years of meetings, consultations and further research the proposed Standards have been drafted in final form, and approved by the Steering Committee, the Sectional Committee by letter ballot and the American Standards Association. The American Standards Association's approval means that they have been reviewed and approved by every committee and board concerned with building, safety, fire egress and protection within their association. They are now American Standard. Copies of these Standards are available at this convention.

These Standards will be used by architects, designers, engineers, builders and those who want to make their buildings accessible to the physically handicapped. They will be used by building officials, legislators and government officials to amend their building regulations (1) to make these specifications mandatory or (2) to make their own public buildings accessible to

the handicapped.

These Standards or specifications cover the essential elements concerned with the use of buildings and facilities by the handicapped. They include:

The grading of ground, even contrary to existing topography, so that it attains a level with a normal entrance that will make a building or facility accessible.

Public walks have been specified to be at least 48 inches wide with a grade no greater than 5 per cent. Walks are to have a continuous surface not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level, and, where they cross other walks, driveways or parking lots, they should blend to a common level. This does not mean the entire elimination of curbs but rather blending walk and driveway to one surface at their juncture.

Parking lots should have spaces which are accessible and identified for use by the physically handicapped. If the space is not open on one side for an individual in a wheelchair or on braces or crutches to get in or out, then some parking spaces 12 feet wide should be provided. Care should be exercised in planning so that individuals are not compelled to wheel or walk behind parked cars.

At least one entrance to every building should be usable by individuals in wheelchairs, and this entrance should have access to the elevator in a multi-story building.

Ramps when necessary should have a gradient of not over one foot in twelve feet or 8.33 per cent. It is interesting to note that practically

every building code now permits ramps with a rise of 10 per cent. The American Standards Association committee decided this was excessive and dangerous unless special precautions were taken. The Standards require ramps to have non-slip surfaces, at least one hand rail and a level platform at the top and at least six feet of straight clearance at the bottom.

Stairs are, of course, the Number One enemy of the wheelchair user, the crutch-walker and the cardiac. Where they must be used it is recommended that the height of the riser be not more than seven inches and that the commonly known nosing be discarded for a type of riser and tread without any abrupt change of surface. At least one hand rail should be extended 18 inches beyond both the top and bottom steps.

Doors generally should be no less than 32 inches in width. Revolving doors cannot be used by those in wheelchairs or on crutches. Double doors are not permitted unless they can operate in unison by one single effort or unless each leaf is at least 32 inches in width. Of course, automatic doors solve the problem excellently. Doors should not be too heavy to be operated by children or the aged. Thresholds should be as nearly level with the floor as possible.

Floors are required to have a non-slip surface and be of a common level throughout.

Toilet rooms are required to have at least one stall that is wide enough for a person in a wheelchair. Mir-

rors, shelves, towel racks and other dispensers should be placed so as to be within reach of those in wheelchairs. Drain pipes and hot water pipes should be covered or protected so that a wheelchair individual without sensation will not burn himself.

Water fountains should have spouts and controls accessible to the physically handicapped. Fortunately the new designs of wall mounted drinking fountains when placed at the proper heights meet the requirements for use by the handicapped.

Public telephones should be installed so that they are accessible to those in wheelchairs. An appropriate number should also be equipped for the hard-of-hearing. It is recommended that architects and builders work closely with the local telephone company in such planning.

Elevators should be accessible and usable by the physically handicapped. Elevator cabs should be large enough to enable a wheelchair to turn.

Controls and switches for lights, heat, ventilation, windows, venetian blinds, fire alarms, etc., should be placed so as to be usable by, and within reach of, the handicapped.

Identification of rooms and offices should be done by raised letters to help the blind. Likewise, any door not intended for normal use and which might prove dangerous if a blind person were to exit or enter should be quickly identifiable by the use of knurling or ridged surfaces on the handle or knob portion of door hardware.

Warning signals should include both flashing lights and audible sound for both the deaf and the blind.

The Standards also call attention to hazards that should be avoided, such as access doors or manhole covers in floors, low hanging door closers, low hanging signs, ceiling lights or similar objects which protrude into regular trafficways. Openings in pavements or floors should be protected by both audible and visual warning signals.

I have only covered the highlights of the new Standards as now approved. In their entirety they are much more inclusive and specific with respect to dimensions in use of materials and methods of construction and design. There are many more areas that need attention, but these Standards will give the designer or builder all the facts and data he needs to make buildings and facilities accessible to the physically handicapped.

American Standards are subject to periodic review. They are reaffirmed or revised to meet changing economic conditions and technological progress. There are many more refinements that can be added in future studies. We who are interested expect to keep the subject continually before us. However, more importantly we want it foremost in the mind of the public whenever a new building is planned. All old buildings can and should be made adaptable to the Standards.

Now, we come to the most important part of this program; which is the education of the public and

especially those who design and build structures and facilities, so that they are aware of these simple Standards. There is nothing in them that will cause problems of design nor will any of the features or specifications increase the cost for the builder. Existing buildings may easily be adapted to meet these Standards without any great outlay of money. Once put into effect, they not only benefit the physically handicapped but the public in general, for they permit use of the facilities with greater ease and comfort by everyone.

I look forward to the day in the not too distant future when every building and facility will be usable by everyone, the able-bodied as well as the physically handicapped . . . When all people can truly work, play and live together . . . When an individual in a wheelchair can attend the church of his choice and not be kept away because steps forbid him to enter . . . When he may enjoy a football or baseball game or attend a concert or the opera . . . When there will be no need to have specially built schools to be used only by physically handicapped children, for all of these buildings will be open to all who desire to enter . . . Most important is the day when we can use the tremendous manpower of the rehabilitated physically handicapped that is now going to waste, for instead of being dependent on public assistance they will be gainfully employed in buildings which are freely accessible. The economic potential is enormous but more important we will have

people who are happy because they are at work in productive, useful occupations.

A little coordinated planning can open up whole new worlds to millions of people, and all facilities will truly be open to everyone regardless of race, creed, color or physical handicap.

This is the challenge and goal for all of us to achieve.

Copies of the Standards are available from the Nat'l Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 2023 West Ogden Ave., Chicago 12, Ill. The address of the American Standards Assn. is 10 East 40th St., New York 16, New York. The American Institute of Architects is tentatively planning to publish the Standards in their monthly magazine, probably the February issue.

Dear
Bonnie:



DEAR BONNIE:

I can't hold a cup of coffee with one hand. Is it all right to hold the saucer up with the other hand so I can manage?

DELLA

DEAR DELLA:

Certainly. Good manners consist of doing things as gracefully as you are

able. Your method is much better than being conspicuously helped.

DEAR BONNIE:

How can I keep people with bad colds from visiting me? I am very susceptible.

KER CHOO

DEAR KER:

A discreet sign on your door should help. Possibly they are not aware of the danger to you. If you mean there are certain offenders, do not be afraid to be frank where your health is concerned.

DEAR BONNIE:

I'm a handicapped mother and lately I wonder if I have failed as a mother. Someone told me that my 9 year old daughter steals. How can I keep her from doing it when I can't follow her around all the time?

RUTH

DEAR RUTH:

Normal mothers don't follow 9 year olds around all the time either! Be firm in your disapproval of theft without making her feel she has lost your love. Love is the real need in most cases where a child steals at that age. Show your love for her more. This you can do as well as any mother.

DEAR BONNIE:

I just feel that life is not worth living and there is no hope for it to get any better. What good is living if a person can't be happy the way they want to be?

J. R.

DEAR J. R.:

Life itself is hope. Your depression is only a temporary thing if you will look for joy in the process of everyday living. Happiness is never made-to-order. That's why it is the *pursuit* that leads us on all through life.

Don't Judge Too Harshly Mr. Editor

The writer takes issue with the last EDITORIAL and points out that you can't judge a person by surface details only.

Editors Note: This letter is being printed in full because it does an excellent job of illustrating how actual experiences, intelligently handled and UNDERSTOOD, led the way to a very successful and high paying position for this person.

I have just finished reading your editorial "What Happened to Mary", in the Fall issue of *Accent on Living*, and I'd like to make a comment or two if I may.

First, it's a very effective editorial. I felt exactly as you did as I was reading it. But afterward I began to realize that Mary's job was a highly specialized situation and also that it was a first job. And that rang for me a long forgotten bell. For suddenly I remembered my first job.

To give this any real meaning, perhaps I should tell you something about myself. I am a gal in my forties doing research in a very specialized field of law. I go home at night to a comfortable home which I share with my mother. We have a car we both drive. (I use a hand control.) I have books and records and friends, but most important, I have work that keeps me vitally interested every hour of every day. I also have a salary many non-handicapped people, men or women, might envy. Do you wonder, then, Mr. Editor, that I had almost for-

gotten, until I read your editorial, that on my first job I lasted just two days?

My background is different from Mary's. Paraplegic from the age of eighteen months, I nevertheless went to public schools (on crutches) and a large state university. With two college degrees and a Phi Beta Kappa key, I found that in the pre-World War II teaching field my disability far out-weighed any abilities I had to offer. So, let's skip those years—three, to be exact—and take the civil service examination which got me my first job, as a clerk-stenographer in a state hospital for the mentally ill. Come with me to the office of the top level executive in the state capital who approved my appointment, saying, "This isn't the job you should have, but it's a beginning".

Now, report with me to the business manager in the state hospital a few days later. "It's too bad you've had this long trip," he is saying. "But those people in the central office simply don't understand our problems."

One by one, he gave me reasons why I couldn't do the work. I couldn't carry the account books. I couldn't use the files. I told him I had carried books on the campus of

a large state university; I proved that I could use the files. But he wasn't listening. At last he said that there was another job. I said I'd take it.

I spent the rest of that day waiting. No one knew what I was supposed to do or what job I was supposed to have. The next morning he gave me a few short letters which I transcribed. Then I waited once more. Later he had visitors. As their voices came through the open door of his office I realized with a shock that he was discussing me. He was explaining why they couldn't use me, why they needed someone with local experience. This happened twenty years ago and I'm deliberately omitting details. But putting those details together I realized that I had a competitor for the job. I realized also that this was no problem because of my disability.

After letting me sit the remainder of the day, the business manager called me into his office one last time. "Because of your disability", he said, "you obviously can't do the work. So, if you will just sign this resignation (it had already been prepared) you will be paid for two days' work". I signed.

After I had read your editorial about Mary, Mr. Editor, I thought a good deal about that first job. Not because Mary's experience was like mine. It wasn't, of course. But because if you had known the surface details only, my experience, too, would have made a pretty stirring editorial.

It was my good fortune that the

central office executive knew much more than the surface details. On my return to the state capital, I went to see him and when I left his office I had another job. It, too, was several miles away from home, but as he had said before, it was "a beginning".

Actually, it was much more than that. It was a second chance. Later I studied at night while working during the day. Eventually I got the job I have today.

The moral to this story? There really isn't any, I suppose. However, it does illustrate two things. One is the fact that you can't possibly know what problems a new situation may present until you find yourself in it. The second is that a disability has just about as many different meanings as there are different people to consider it.

Sometimes a physical disability seems more difficult than it really is. This is often true and offers, I think, one of the most promising avenues for increasing our employment opportunities. However, a disability also sometimes seems less difficult than it is, and I wonder if that may not have been the case with Mary. Certainly I am mute before the sheer raw courage it must take to place oneself as completely in the hands of strangers as she did. Certainly also, a situation such as hers is never merely a matter of physical limitation alone. But in any case, whether a situation is so difficult as to be virtually impossible—physically, mentally, or emotionally—is, in the long run, a deci-

sion only the person himself or herself can make. Mary made her decision, and considering the severity of her handicap, it seems most highly unfair to say, without having been in her situation oneself, that she was wrong.

For what it is worth, I have a few basic principles I live by. Most of them have nothing to do with a physical handicap. With respect to my disability, my decisions are reached by answering two questions. First, what would I do in this instance if I did not have a disability? And second, how much of a concession must I make because of the disability? Occasionally I must concede that I am just not able, physically, to do something I would very much like to do. Often I do it differently, but get it accomplished. Sometimes I revise my approach simply because I know my disability causes genuine concern to others, and I try not to make the lives of others more complicated than they already are. But always I reserve the right to make my decisions as an individual—and my mistakes, too, for that matter. And when the chips are down I want that same right for others, especially if they have a disability. **FOR ONLY AS WE THINK OF OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS FIRST AND HANDICAPPED SECOND CAN WE HOPE TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.** And only as others view us as individuals, with individual skills and talents, with individual handicaps *and* individual

abilities, can we hope to meet this problem of becoming self-supporting and staying that way.

If, as you say, there is **ONE** big job to do, it seems to me that it is not merely to prove that physically handicapped persons, if they are capable of doing a job, are no different from any one else but also to demonstrate that there are many many ways of being disabled and that given proper training and an even chance (no more) a physically handicapped person can often do as good a job as, and sometimes better than a non-handicapped person. But this doesn't mean that *every* physically handicapped person can do any job as well as the non-handicapped. Nor does it mean that a handicapped person should feel himself under any particular compulsion to stay with the first job he ever gets—come hell or high water—if it isn't the right job for him.

Employers do generalize, of course. So also does everyone else, including those who write editorials—and those who answer them. But if I am permitted one last generalization, I would say that most personnel officers worth their salt—and there are a great many of them—know that people, handicapped or not, must be considered as individuals and deal with them on that basis. Our **ONE** big job, as I see it, then, is to present ourselves the same way, as individuals, with skills so attractive that employers want to hire us and with personalities sufficiently well balanced and handicaps sufficiently well in hand, they won't hesitate to do so.

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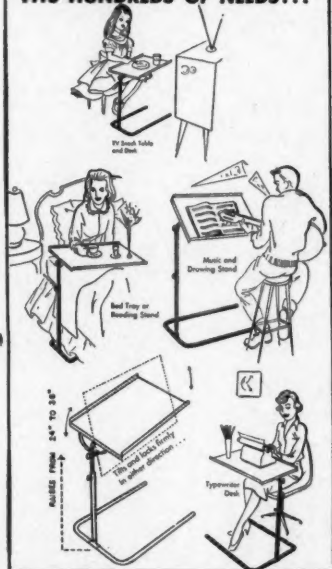
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WELLS-ENGBERG CO., 2505 Rural Street, Rockford, Illinois. Write Dept. "A" for literature.

Over 1,000 licensed drivers in 50 states and overseas . . . There must be a reason—Drive-Master Hand Controls. See ad page 11.

Interested In Show Biz?

I would like to contact Post Polios, and other types of recovered handicapped people in No. & So. Calif., who are seriously interested in the Entertainment field as a career. Persons writing should preferably have some experience and/or training, and be willing to devote their time and abilities toward helping their fellow handicaps. The format would be basically an Entertainment Group, with possibly some travel involved, so good health and ability to travel easily are important. Talents can include: Singing, Dancing, Comedy, Gymnast, or any other novel ideas. For more information write Rich Sprague % ACCENT ON LIVING.

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TO LIVE AGAIN

by Jean Carpenter

What can you do
with a broken life
When your world has come
to an end?
Pick up the pieces
and give them to God
He'll put them together,
my friend.
He'll sort out the pieces
one by one
And replace the old
with new;
Let God rebuild your life,
my friend
He builds much better
than you!

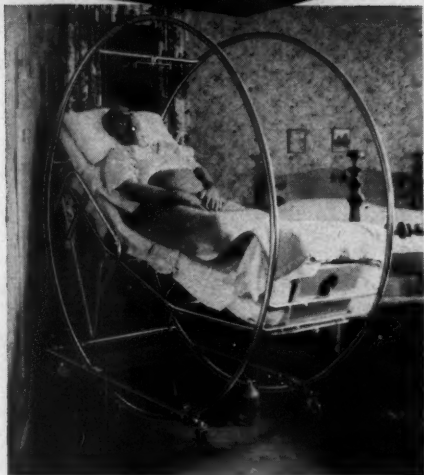
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**PARALYZED
PATIENT AT HOME**

Patient's comment: "I was on a Turning Frame and found the CircOlectric much superior.

I feel better mentally and physically. My wife is able to do all turning operations and all the things they did in the hospital to care for me, without help from anyone."

Herman S. Daring,
Van Wert, Ohio.



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- Increases patient self sufficiency.
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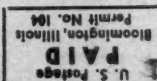
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